

How Does the New Dog and Cat Sterilization Program Work?

The Dog and Cat Sterilization Program:

- Helps pay participating veterinarians for dog and cat spay and neuter procedures
- Provides educational outreach and materials about the benefits of sterilization
- Relies on plate sales, tax check off proceeds, private donations, and corporate grants for funding
- Raises public awareness about the healthy choice of spay/neuter

Licensed and accredited veterinarians who choose to participate in the program will receive a subsidy payment from the Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund.

Who Supports the Program?

- Georgia Assoc. of County Commissioners
- Georgia Animal Control Association
- Georgia Canine Coalition
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Georgia Pet Industry Association
- Georgia Sheriffs' Association
- Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
- Humane Association of Georgia
- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Cat Population Pyramid

Possible reproduction of unsterilized cats:



1st Year: 3 litters = 12 Offspring

2nd Year: 144+ Offspring

3rd Year: 1728+ Offspring



Two Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plates Available at Local Tag Offices



Please contact us for more information:

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund

POB 347043

Atlanta GA 30334-7043

<http://agr.georgia.gov>

800-282-5852 or 404-656-3667

Humane Association of Georgia

www.humaneassociationofgeorgia.org

404-827-0603

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association

www.GVMA.net

678-309-9800

This brochure is available in print-ready format on these websites to pass along to media, local officials, veterinary clinics, pet stores, friends and neighbors.



Tommy Irvin, Georgia
Commissioner of Agriculture

"Many Georgians do not spay or neuter their animals, resulting in thousands of dogs and cats being euthanized because only a few are adopted," said Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin. "This new program will save the lives of dogs and cats without increasing taxes."

How Can I Support the Program?

1. Buy a Dog & Cat Sterilization License Plate
2. Make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund
3. Ask your employer to match your contribution
4. Help educate others about sterilization
5. Honor/remember someone with a contribution
6. Donate through the State Income Tax Checkoff

How Do I Get a Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plate Now?

All specialty license plate, including the Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plate, are available at local tag offices in Georgia. Plates may be purchased for an extra \$25 AT ANY TIME, regardless of birthday and the regular fee paid later during your birth month.

Purchasing the license plate is **voluntary**. It is an easy way to fund this important program, and the great looking license plate will show others that you care about helping the animals!

Program Accountability

- **92 cents** of every dollar donated to the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program goes directly to fund spay/neuter procedures.
- More than **700** veterinarians have performed almost **20,000** of spay/neuter procedures throughout Georgia. Any licensed and accredited veterinarian can participate.
- People and animals in all **159** Georgia counties have benefited from the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program.

Don't Drive Without Your “Buddy” License Plate!



\$25 One-Time Specialty Tag Fee

No public tax money supports the DCSP. Purchase of the special license plate is **voluntary** and \$22 from each tag sale goes directly into the program. **All donations to the DCSP are 100% tax-deductible.**

Contributions to the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program (DCSP) can be sent to:

**DCSP
POB 347043
Atlanta GA 30334-7043**

Why is a Sterilization Program important?

Dog and cat overpopulation is a tragic problem in all areas of Georgia. Each year thousands of healthy, friendly dogs and cats are euthanized in Georgia's animal shelters because people have allowed them to stray and breed. **There are not enough homes for them all.**

Sterilization (spaying & neutering) is the solution to dog and cat overpopulation. It reduces:

- number of stray dogs and cats
- dogs and cats housed and killed in shelters
- city/county tax burden for animal control
- destruction to property and livestock
- health risks and bad behavior
- vehicular accidents
- wildlife and habitat destruction
- spread of disease like rabies
- injuries to people and other animals

62 of Georgia's **159** counties do not have animal control.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can I purchase a dog and cat sterilization license plate at any time during the year?

A: Yes, by surrendering your current plate to your county tag office. The fee will be \$25.00 for the license plate. Registration renewal fees and taxes will be due on or before the last day of the registered owner's birth month. Your county tag office can answer any questions you may have concerning purchase of these tags.

Q: How much of the \$25.00 fee benefits the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program (DCSP)?

A: Approximately \$22.00 of the fee goes directly to the DCSP to fund spay/neuter procedures and educational outreach on this healthy choice.